CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portal accessible by a plurality of users over a network, said portal comprising:

a portal page including a first pane and a second pane;

said first pane including at least one knowledge map, said knowledge map comprising a plurality of nodes selectable by said user;

said second pane including at least one portal object responsive to said selection of said nodes within said at least one knowledge map, said portal object comprising information associated with said selection of said nodes.

2. The portal of claim 1, wherein said nodes in said knowledge map are displayed to said user in accordance with a taxonomy.

3. The portal of claim 1, further including a knowledge explorer configured to allow said user to select multiple nodes.

4. The portal of claim 1, wherein said information associated with said selection of said nodes comprises data gathered from at least one data source and filtered in accordance with said selection of said nodes.

5. The portal of claim 1, further including a site menu configured to allow said user to select said portal page from a plurality of pages arranged in a hierarchy.

6. The portal of claim 1, further including a list of favorites associated with said user, said list of favorites including one or more of said nodes.

7. The portal of claim 1, wherein said portal page comprises HTML served to said user in accordance with the HTTP protocol.

8. The portal of claim 1, wherein said portal objects are displayed in a rectilinear pattern of columns and rows.

9. A method for providing portal access to a plurality of users over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a portal page to said user in response to a request from said user, wherein said portal page includes a first pane and a second pane;

said first pane including at least one knowledge map, said knowledge map comprising a plurality of nodes selectable by said user;

said second pane including at least one portal object responsive to said selection of said nodes within said at least one knowledge map, said portal object comprising information associated with said selection of said nodes.

10. The method of claim 9, further including the step of displaying said nodes in said knowledge map in accordance with a taxonomy.

11. The method of claim 9, further including the step of providing a knowledge explorer configured to allow said user to select multiple nodes.

12. The method of claim 9, further including the step gathering data from at least one data source and filtering said gathered data in accordance with said selection of said nodes.

13. The method of claim 9, further including the step of providing a site menu configured to allow said user to select said portal page from a plurality of pages arranged in a hierarchy.

14. The method of claim 9, further including the step of providing a list of favorites associated with said user, said list of favorites including one or more of said nodes.